

DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE DIRECTIVE NO. 1/3¹

PRIORITY NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE OBJECTIVES

(Revised 14 August 1963)

FOREWORD

Pursuant to NSCID No. 1, paragraph 3, the following list of Priority National Intelligence Objectives (PNIOs) is established as a guide for the coordination of intelligence production, and of supporting research and collection activities. This list replaces that contained in DCID No. 1/3, 9 January 1963, which is hereby rescinded.

This listing of priority objectives presupposes that the bulk of the intelligence required for the formulation and execution of national security policy will be the product of normal intelligence collection and research pursuant to DCID No. 1/2. The present Directive identifies, for priority treatment, certain specific critical substantive problems within the general body of the intelligence required for policy planning purposes. In this context, "priority" means preferment in the allocation of research and collection resources. Such preferment does not warrant neglect of the general and basic intelligence coverage required by DCID No. 1/2.

The identification of specific critical substantive problems in this Directive is but a first step toward determination of the priority, if any, to be accorded to particular collection requirements by particular systems of collection. Not every bit of information somehow related to a priority problem will be required with equal urgency; some may be procurable by routine means. The identification² of priority requirements entails further analysis by research personnel to determine (a) the elements of information essential to the solution of the problem indicated, (b) the elements already available or readily obtainable through research, (c) the additional information obtainable through routine collection, and finally (d) the residual information of such critical importance as to warrant a priority collection effort.

Even when a priority collection requirement has been thus established, it does not follow that it should be treated as a matter of priority by every collection agency. A priority requirement appropriate for one system of collection may be of no priority whatever with respect to

¹This Directive supersedes DCID No. 1/3 of 9 January 1963.

another, because unsuited to it. Determinations as to which requirements will be accorded priority by particular systems of collection must be made by responsible collection authorities, under the general guidance of the PNIOs, but with regard for operational capabilities and suitabilities.

The present Directive is intended to serve as a stable basis for long-term intelligence planning, with reference to the development of intelligence resources as well as to the allocation of existing resources. It seeks to identify the critical substantive problems likely to persist, or to develop, during the next five years. It will be reviewed and revised annually. It will also be supplemented by a quarterly listing of currently critical or potentially critical situations. This supplement, looking forward for six months or so, will seek to anticipate such emergent changes in the situation as might warrant some shift of emphasis in the employment of research and collection resources.

OBJECTIVES*

REMAINDER OF TEXT EXEMPT FROM DISCLOSURE

* While this list of objectives is not intended to have internal priority arrangement, primary emphasis must continue to be given to those objectives which are so critical as to pose an immediate and continuing military threat to the security of the United States.